

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NICOSI 02126 121646Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07 NSAE-00
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O P 121635Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6298
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
DIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USNMR SHAPE BEL

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 2126

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC USCINCEUR FOR POLAD USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, CY
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE COURSE OF EVENTS IN SUCCESSION TO MAKARIOS

REF: NICOSIA 2095 (NOTAL)

1.--AS NICOSIA PREPARES TO CLOSE DOWN FOR A LONG WEEKEND
(MONDAY IS ASSUMPTION DAY), WE CAN EXPECT A GENERAL MORATORIUM
ON OVERT POLITICAL MANEUVERING FOR NEXT TWO OR THREE DAYS,
ALTHOUGH SOME FACTIONS HAVE PLANNED INTERNAL MEETINGS.
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PAGE 02 NICOSI 02126 121646Z

INTENSIVE MANEUVERING UP TO NOW DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE HAD
ANY CONCLUSIVE RESULTS, BUT, BASED UPON ALL THE INFORMATION
AVAILABLE TO THE EMBASSY, THERE APPEAR TO BE EMERGING THREE
BROAD POSSIBILITIES OF RESOLVING THE QUESTION OF MAKARIOS'
SUCCESSOR:

(A) BASED ON A DESIRE TO AVOID TWO DIVISIVE ELECTIONS

WITHIN A SIX MONTH PERIOD AT A CRITICAL TIME FOR CYPRUS, A STRONG, CONSENSUS LEADER (NOT KYPRIANOU) WOULD BE PUT INTO OFFICE UNOPPOSED IN SEPTEMBER BY-ELECTION WITH AGREEMENT THAT HE WOULD ALSO RUN UNOPPOSED IN FEBRUARY AND CONTINUE IN OFFICE FOR FULL TERM. PROPONENTS OF PASCALIDES ARGUE FOR THIS COURSE.

(B) FIRST CURSE IS OPPOSED BY KYPRIANOU, AKEL AND EDEK, WHO PREFER THAT KYPRIANOU BE ELECTED UNOPPOSED IN SEPTEMBER BY-ELECTION AS WELL AS IN REGULAR FEBRUARY ELECTION AND SERVE A FULL TERM.

(C) THIRD POSITION, TOWARD WHICH CLERIDES AND HIS DEMOCRATIC RALLY SEEM TO BE MOVING, IS THAT KYPRIANOU BE ELECTED UNOPPOSED IN SEPTEMBER BUT THAT FEBRUARY ELECTIONS BE CONTESTED. IT SEEMS THAT CLERIDES HAS BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL IN WRINGING ANY CONCESSIONS FROM KYPRIANOU IN EXCHANGE FOR SUPPORT IN BY-ELECTION, AND THUS HE MAY BE KEEPING OPEN OPTION OF NEITHER SUPPORTING OR CONTESTING KYPRIANOU IN SEPTEMBER, BUT MOUNTING FULL CAMPAIGN FOR FEBRUARY ELECTIONS.

2. POSSIBLE VARIANT OF POSSIBILITY (A), AS A FACE SAVING DEVICE FOR KYPRIANOU, WOULD BE TO LET HIM RUN UNOPPOSED IN SEPTEMBER WITH AGREEMENT HE WOULD STEP ASIDE IN FAVOR OF PASCALIDES IN FEBRUARY. ARGUING AGAINST THIS POSSIBILITY IS STRONG LIKELIHOOD IT WOULD BE OPPOSED BY OTHER FACTIONS, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 NICOSI 02126 121646Z

AND IT IS GENERALLY BELIEVED THAT PASCALIDES WILL NOT ACCEPT NOMINATION EXCEPT ON CONDITION HE BE UNOPPOSED.

3. IF AGREEMENT CANNOT BE REACHED BY ALL PARTIES ALONG LINES OF POSSIBILITIES (A) OR (B), THERE IS LIKELIHOOD OF A PROLONGED, DIVISIVE CAMPAIGN LEADING UP TO FEBRUARY ELECTIONS. CRAWFORD

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